

Application No.: 09/857,210

Reply to Office Action dated: July 16, 2003

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Tsoy for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on March 2, 2004. During this discussion it was noted that one way to address current rejections is to include in Claim 13 that the blasting agent is partially incorporated into the surface of the support material. The Examiner indicated that this limitation appears to overcome the outstanding rejections.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 13** relates to **a method for producing an ultraphobic surface** on metal, glass, ceramic or plastic or a composite of metal and plastic as support material, comprising:

intensively roughening a surface of the support material with a fluid jet containing a solid blasting agent over a long period, the blasting agent having a particle size of $< 200 \mu\text{m}$, optionally coating with an adhesion promoter layer and then providing a hydrophobic and/or oleophobic coating;

wherein said blasting agent is partially incorporated into the surface of the support material.

None of Azzopardi et al (U.S. 6,299,981), JP 04168904, Ogawa et al (U.S. 5,324,566), Li et al (U.S. 5,751,541) and Gesing et al (U.S. 3, 867,203), alone or in combination disclose or suggest a method as claimed in which the **blasting agent is partially incorporated into the surface of the support material.**

The specification states at page 3, lines 5-7 that: "Surprisingly, the effect of the ultraphobic properties of the treated surfaces is codetermined by the partial incorporation of the blasting agent into the surface of the support material." This is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references. Thus, even a combination of the references does not result in the present invention.

Therefore, the rejections of 1) Claims 13-20, 24, 25, 27 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azzopardi et al (U.S. 6,299,981) in view of JP 04168904, 2) Claims 13-20, 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (U.S. 5,324,566) in view of JP 04168904, 3) Claims 13-20, 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

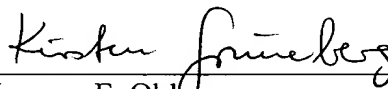
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as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (U.S. 5,324,566) in view of JP 04168904, 4) Claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Azzopardi et al (U.S. 6,299,981) or Ogawa et al (U.S. 5,324,566) in view of JP 04168904, further in view of Li et al (U.S. 5,751,541), and 5) Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Azzopardi et al (U.S. 6,299,981) or Ogawa et al (U.S. 5,324,566) in view of JP 04168904 and Li et al (U.S. 5,751,541), and further in view of Gesing et al (U.S. 3, 867,203), are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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